

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for removing frozen food product from a container comprising:  
a scoop engageable with the product on one side of the container, the scoop having a channel formed extending along one side thereof;  
a trailing edge extending along a portion of one side of the channel;  
a leading edge extending along a portion of the opposite side of the channel, the trailing edge extending sidewardly further than the leading edge for engaging and removing product from the exposed side of the container when the scoop is moved relative to the container.
2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the channel is tapered lengthwise, having a larger cross-sectional area at one end of the channel than at the other end.
3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the one side of the channel is substantially straight and the opposite side of the channel is curved along the length of the channel.
4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the trailing edge, the leading edge and the sides of the channel are curved.
5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the channel is substantially semi-circular.
6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein the scoop has an opening in communication with the channel adjacent one end thereof, the opening having the larger cross-sectional area, than the channel whereby as the product moves along the channel it passes through the opening.

7. An apparatus for forming scoops of ice cream including:

an elongated arcuate shaped scoop member mounted adjacent an open end of a container of food product, said scoop member including an arcuately curved, tapered channel portion, a trailing edge along one side of the channel portion, an opening in the scoop member adjacent to one end of the channel, and a central enlarged spherical portion adjacent the opening;

means for rotating the scoop member relative to the container of food product, the trailing edge engaging the food product and gathering the food product into the channel from the container as the scoop member is rotated relative to the container, the channel portion guiding the gathered food product toward the opening and toward the spherical portion of the scoop member.

8. An apparatus for forming and dispensing food product from a container having an open side including:

as assembly for supporting the container;

a scoop and apparatus for moving the scoop while engaged with the food product on the open side of the container, said apparatus rotating the scoop to remove food product from the container and for forming said removed food product into a desired shape; and

a device associated with the scoop for dispensing the food product therefrom, including means for rotating the scoop relative to the food product in the container, the amount of rotation being proportional to the desired serving size of the food product.

9. An apparatus for dispensing food product from an end of a container including:

a scoop member mounted adjacent to the container end, said scoop member including a channel portion with a trailing edge for engaging the food product in the container and directing it into and along the channel,

an opening through the scoop member adjacent one end of the channel;

means for rotating the container relative to the scoop member whereby the scoop member gathers food product from the container, the channel portion being tapered to force the gathered food product through and along the channel toward the opening in the scoop member; and

a device for pushing the food product toward the scoop as the scoop is rotated relative to the container and food product is removed from the container.

10. An apparatus for removing food products such as ice cream and the like from a container of said product comprising:

a support structure for holding the container with an open side of the container exposed, as product is removed therefrom,

a scoop assembly mounted adjacent to the open side of the container for movement relative thereto, said scoop assembly included an elongated member having a cavity formed on one side, said cavity extending between opposed side edges, one of which extends outwardly from the cavity further than the other, means for supporting said scoop in position to have the more outwardly projecting side edge engage the food product in the container such that movement of the scoop relative to the container will cause food product in the container to move into the cavity and toward one end thereof, an opening in said cavity adjacent to said one end through which the food product can escape from the cavity, and

means to produce relative movement between the scoop and the container.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the means for moving the scoop relative to the container include means to control the amount of food product that is scooped from the container each time relative movement is produced therebetween.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the container is a cylinder container, one end of which is open to expose the food product contained therein, the scoop being positioned adjacent to said exposed end of the container and extending substantially from the center of the exposed end to the edge thereof whereby the scoop removes food product from the container in a circular path.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the cavity in the scoop is curved in shape and one end of the cavity is deeper than the opposite end, and an opening in said deep end through which the scraped food product passes when the scoop moves relative to the container.